



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD, SUITE 10
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6010

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-P (40-3c)

01 NOV 1999


MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands

SUBJECT: Criteria for Secretary of the Army (SA) Designee Status

1. Enclosure 1 is provided for your guidance and review when submitting requests for SA designee status. Commanders must request designee status for all ineligible civilians prior to rendering of non-emergent care in Army military treatment facilities (MTFs) (Enclosure 2).
2. The SA has statutory authority to approve non-emergent care for individuals not otherwise eligible for care at Army MTFs. Army Regulation 40-3, Medical, Dental, and Veterinary Care, paragraph 4-55, provides regulatory guidance concerning the SA Designee Program. This discretionary authority is used conservatively and is based on the merits of each individual case. The mere need for medical care will not, in itself, support approval of this authority. Requests should be addressed to: Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command, ATTN: MCHO-CL-P, 2050 Worth Road, Suite 10, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6010. The MEDCOM staff will review all requests from the MTFs for SA designee status, ensure administrative information is complete, and make a recommendation to the SA.
3. Commanders or their designated representative and Patient Administrators will review all requests and determine whether they meet the criteria contained herein prior to forwarding to the MEDCOM. Although all requests will be forwarded to the SA for final decision, only those that meet the criteria will generally go forward with a MEDCOM recommendation for approval.
4. Our points of contact are Mr. Clark or MAJ Griffin, Patient Administration Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Health Policy and Services, DSN 471-6113 or Commercial (210) 221-6113.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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as


KEVIN C. KILEY
Brigadier General, MC
Deputy Chief of Staff for
Operations, Health Policy
and Services

GUIDELINES FOR SECRETARY OF
THE ARMY (SA) DESIGNEE REQUESTS

The following criteria will be used as a guideline when submitting requests for SA designee status for ineligible individuals.

a. General.

(1) Short-Term Care: Care rendered under SA designee authority will be provided for the shortest period of time possible and practical. The military treatment facility (MTF) should normally be able to complete treatment within 1 year. Use of the aeromedical evacuation system may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Personal Financial Consideration: Personal financial hardship alone will not normally be used as a basis for granting SA designee status. However, the ability of the patient to pay the premiums of the Continued Health Care Benefit Program will be considered. The MTF will determine other possible health care sources and will provide this information to the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM).

(3) The nature of the soldier's discharge from active duty (AD) will be considered. Entitlement to medical care is an important reason to remain on AD. The family members of soldiers who voluntarily leave the Army will normally lose eligibility for medical care as of midnight of the day of separation. Soldiers voluntarily separating from the service have the option to extend their term of service for up to 12 months to retain eligibility for medical care in the military health system (MHS).

b. Specific.

(1) Teaching Case: When the case represents significant or unique teaching value that greatly enhances a residency or fellowship program. The chief of the training program and either the commander or deputy commander for clinical services must endorse designee requests of unusual teaching value.

Guidelines for Secretary of the Army (SA) Designee Requests
(Continued)

(2) Continuity of Care: When the planned treatment is a continuation of care for a condition that was treated while the patient was an eligible beneficiary, the treatment can be completed within 1 year, or the transfer of care to a civilian provider would probably lead to a less than excellent outcome. This will include beneficiaries whose termination of eligibility is due to age (21st or 23d birthday).

(3) Organ Donation: When a non-eligible individual has agreed to be a living donor and has been determined to be a potential transplantation match for an eligible beneficiary undergoing organ transplantation in an Army MTF.

(4) Maternity Care: When the potential designee has begun receiving prenatal care in an MTF and loses eligibility for care due to a divorce or some circumstances other than sponsor's voluntary separation prior to her delivery date. Designee status will include delivery, hospitalization of newborn at birth, one postpartum visit, and one well-baby visit approximately 6 weeks after delivery. Soldiers voluntarily separating will be required to extend. Delivery date must be within 90 days of separation in other cases.

(5) Burn Case: When a recently burned civilian patient requires specialized treatment at the Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR), Brooke Army Medical Center, and treatment is required to maintain the accreditation and training requirements of the ISR should have designee status. Patients will be eligible for long-term outpatient follow-up treatment for complications of an acute burn injury in accordance with Good Clinical Practice (GCP) as required by The American College of Surgeons/American Burn Association. Outpatient follow-up will allow the ISR to treat burn patients entered into the research protocol in accordance with the GCP, until the patient can be disengaged.

(6) Foreign Nationals: When the U.S. Department of State requests treatment of a foreign national and states that

Guidelines for Secretary of the Army (SA) Designee Requests
(Continued)

the treatment is in the best interest of the U.S. Government, designee status may be granted by the SA. Requests to treat foreign nationals will be endorsed by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).